Hannele Niemi (PI)

with the research team (Professor Heikki Hämäläinen and Adjunct Professor Leenamaija Otala)

Senior knowledge

The Senior Knowledge project opens a new horizon to the research of ageing and work. The project addresses recent challenges of how to connect different disciplines into research of senior knowledge workers (55+) with an interdisciplinary approach. This Senior Knowledge project provides a new approach to the investigation of how ageing knowledge workers learn, use their brains and minds, utilise their long experiences and earlier expertise in different knowledge work and how they work in processes that are related to decision making, problem solving and creating new knowledge. The personal level approach will be connected with leadership in organization, as well as productivity and work culture in organisations. The project reveals how organizations face the phenomenon of ageing and what role leadership and work culture play in keeping senior talent as a resource. The aim of the project is also to uncover ageing experiences and paths in work life from the perspectives of knowledge workers who are in the middle (35-45 years old) and in the senior years (55-65 years old) of their work careers. The Senior Knowledge project uses new methodological approaches by combining survey techniques, brain research, organisational culture and leadership measures, and well-being and stress measurements, interviews and video observation. As the main product the project will provide new research methodological techniques to model work-related ageing processes and paths in knowledge production professions. The research team is highly multidisciplinary having expertise in education, psychology, neuroscience, medicine, and organisational and leadership research.

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